

ROBERT E. LATTA
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

VICE CHAIRMAN
CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

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ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
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1384

October 4, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

As you know, broadband is transforming American life and is a key element to economic growth in our country. In 2010, the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Plan, which you helped to write, set forth the goal that everyone in the United States should have access to broadband services supporting at least a basic set of applications. This goal is important because broadband is to modern America what electricity and telephone service was to the U.S. in the 20th Century.

A recent Connected Nation Ohio study shows that small business revenue in Ohio is on average, almost \$100,000 higher annually if the business has broadband. This statistic is just one example of the economic significance of high-speed broadband availability – both wireline and mobile. In my district in Northern Ohio, only 41% of the population has broadband available at the speed of 6 Mbps up, and 1.5 Mbps down, although an additional 56% has broadband available at the speed of 768 kbps up, and 200 kbps down. However, my mostly rural district is home to a diverse group of companies – wireline, mobile, fixed wireless, cable, satellite – that depend on serious and sensible reform to USF to continue their efforts towards broadband expansion.

The time is now to move forward with reforming the Universal Service Fund. I urge the Commission to seize this opportunity to put forth a fiscally responsible plan that considers the importance of all technologies in broadband deployment, while targeting USF funds to the hardest-to-reach areas. As the Commission moves forward, I ask that you keep Members of Congress and their staff briefed on the process and changes to the USF. Thank you again for your service and I appreciate your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Robert E. Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

On October 27, after many years of hard work on Capitol Hill, among the FCC's Commissioners, and by Commission staff, the Commission unanimously adopted a comprehensive Order overhauling the broken and backward-looking USF and ICC systems for the Internet age. By transitioning these programs to the Connect America Fund, we are delivering on our shared national goal of universal voice and broadband service – including universal mobile voice and broadband service – and enabling increased private sector investment in the indispensable infrastructure of the 21st century: broadband. Importantly, our reforms are fiscally responsible, eliminating waste and inefficiency, using market-based mechanisms to target support where it is needed, and putting the Fund on a firm budget.

The Commission's Order will create jobs beginning in 2012, and lay the foundation for enduring job creation, economic growth, and U.S. global competitiveness for years to come.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the Order's "Executive Summary." Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", with a checkmark below it.

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure